MYSTERY OF THE BAYOU WOODS

By WALKER HENNEDY.

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CHAPTER III.—Warde examines mys-tous featurints in the snew and tells i. Franklin, an old acquaintance of a murdered man, of them. Herbert is rested on suspicion of being implicated

the murder, HAPTER IV.-Col. Franklin is a brit-th lawyer, but says he is unable to We the mystery, "HAPTER V.—At coroner's inquest cons circumstantial evidence against when the work of the constant with the murder, "HAPTER VI.—Warde goes to Herrits sister, Miriam, who believes him nocent, and tells her he will do all in a power to clear her brother. Colarbin says be thinks a strong case when made against herbert.

SYNOPSIS.

HAPTER 1 - Herbert Wright goes to althy cotton king, from when he seen estranged, in the Hayou Wron's the town. The chief questions light whose answers cause former to cot him of the crime. The chief, with sorter, Irving Warde, goes to scene THAPTER II.—They find body and ex-

al murderer.

HAPTER X.—Warde's interest in the set is not allogether for Heriser's sake, it because it gives him opportunities see Mirlam, and their acquaintance or gradually riened into something ronger than friendship.

s busy entertaining an eastern caplist by the name of Frederick rivale. Just why it did so, perhaps, us would have been puzzied to exin if an explanation had been object of his visit or in what wav this wining and dining could assist prospects of the city. But Nilus. naturally hospitable and when Merivale's presence was made own it was surmised in a general y that he was seeking an outlet eastern capital. Perhans he might induced to take up an important Broad project that had been abanned for lack of funds, and which ould open up a splendid new terriwas looking for a place to estabkept them largely to himself. ne of the wealthy cotton men may a been in his confidence; the assidy of their attentions to him fa-

ned by the clabs and banqueted , and the appetizing odor of myse that chang about him added to interest which his visit had ex-

t Mr. Merivale had been enter-

et there was absolutely nothing eresting in the man's personality e to understand him. That which trustworthy information from Hillsan interest, and it was so with

om his conversation, which was dry of darkness usually topped off their purchment. Merivale had very lit- labors with a plate of oysters or a to say, and what he did say was t worth remembering either for its always cheerful and inviting, and gave Hinney, its depth or its perspicuity. & bright side to the night life of the iencies in the conversational line. at he gave his tailor earte blanche. Hillsman sitting alone. en prenounced a well-dressed man

Nilus knew there was something Merivale, even though she could nown to squeeze Wall street pretty ad glory; and it is burdly necessary say that the man who is a sucossesses a charm for the corious nat no merely fortunate man could

Naturally, Irving Warde, as a widefinding out the object of Merivale's sit, and soon after his arrival seared an introduction. As a member everal advoit attempts to learn from im the business which brought him every point by that apparently ense and unsuspecting person. Then e turned his attention to the rich otton men who were most frequently vidently as much in the dark as drink of whisky. ving, although they assumed an air mystery and pretended to be in the ne show of mystery, however, and

upon whom Merivale called frequent ly, and this was Col. James Franklin As has already been intimated in this story, Col. Franklin was a man who dabbled in a great many enterprises. but he had considerable reputation as a chancery lawyer. He was a mar whom it was worth while to consul-

about real estate investments, ques tions involving titles and intricate is sues connected with the settlement. estates and the rights of ownership Frequent consultations with Frankli could only be explained on the groun that business of considerable import ance was contemplated, business requiring the services of an astate law-Warde knew that it would b uscless to try to elicit any informamight be induced to become garruious and tell what he knew. colonel's clerk was a person to keep his ears open, and who had an inordi nate fondness for gossin. Dissipated and unaccupulous, he had a certain natural cumping which had developed in him the peculiar mania of collect could find against those with whom he was acquainted or likely to come in contact. If he could secure the evidence of anything crooked in the life of an apparently respectable man, something that had been husbed on or forgotten, he was as bappy as stamp collector or an autograph fiend over a fresh find. A clipping from an old newspaper narrating a long-forgotten scandal in the life of some prominent officer or respected citizen. a letter in which some finically proper person had "given himself away." copy of a paper which was never in-

this collection with the idea that perhaps some day he might need these odd bits of information for his own self-protection, and if any of the peonle on his list undertook to impos on him or to hold him to account for any of his vagaries or irregularities. why, he had the edge on them. No knew anything of Hillsman's strange collection, but people did know that he had a wonderfully inquiring mind, and a memory of other men's lapses and percadillos which

tended to see the light of day, a

gambling I. O. U. that had never been

paid, or the notes in the suppressed

divorce case were objects as valu-

able in Hillsman's eyes as rare bric-a-

Warde at first surmised that the consultations between Mericale and Franklin had not taken place in the latter's office without Hillsman's learning something of them, and so he began quietly to cultivate that individual's society.

The clerk did not prove very communicative, and Warde came to the conclusion that it was because he knew but little. Hillsman's idea was that a big land purchase of some into the papers except the fact what purpose he could not say.

While Warde was still hoping that from this source, Hilleman was discharged from Col. Franklin's employment on the ground of too frequent drunkenness, and because he had collected a considerable sum of money for his employer and while under the the influence of jiquor had gambled it away. When Warde heard this he abandoned any nope of getting any

ederick Merivale. In appearance very night. Warde's habit was to s cold and dull-looking, with a and he usually got it at a restaurant hy eye, a neatly trimmed heard, a which was then a great resort in the shed face, and sparse hair on the city. This hostelry kept open all of his head. His yellowish brown night, and sold everything in the line ard was parted with great pre- of liquers and food, from a glass of his room that night. The clerk gave him a room without entering his beer to a crisply cooked pempano. t affable. He seldem laughed, and There was scarcely an hour of the name on the register, and he retired en he did the intention was not night when it was not niled with guests. It was a great rendezvous for actors and persons who had been old not guess how. His manner about town and the gentlemen game ve no indication whatever of his biers made it their midnight meetingtermine the process of his thoughts who had been at work under cover

ere could be no doubt that he was tables were occupied by the guests. In a distant corner, however, he saw

bottle of champagne. The place was

and rather hilariously beckened to him. Irving accordingly scated him self at Hillsman's table. He soon discovered that Hillsman was in a wearing way; his face was flushed, his eye had an artificial justre, and it was evident that he had imbibed not wisely, but too much. He was in a rd several times to his own profit maudlin good humor. He had been "fired" that morning, and he was glad of it. He had a sense of relief, which he easily persuaded himself was delightful. There was really some fur in getting fired, and he was determined to celebrate in a thorough and pain-taking manner. And so with malice aforethought he was rapidly approaching a state of complete al-

coholie Nirvana. He had welcomed Warde effusively some of the lending cinbs of the and told him recklessly to order what ty, he contrived to see a great deal he wanted. The invitation was ac-Merivale, and though he made cepted, and, as he was hungry and dered a substantial supper. While they were waiting. Hillsman insisted on their taking a drink together, and the liquor was soon forthcoming.

"I suppose you heard about my being fired by the governor this morn-Merivale's society, but they were ing," said Hillsman, tossing off a large

> "Yes." said Warde, "what was the matter?"

"Why, he complained about my orinking, and accused me of getting drunk. I told him pretty plain that I breakfast. didn't see any reason why he should

"What did he say to that? "Why, he cussed me, but lemme tell ou, Irv Warde, just between you and e, the governor made a big mistake

then he cussed me and fired me out. know a blamed sight more than he gives me credit for. I'll make him knuckle to me yet; just put that in your note book and write her up in night?" big type. I've got something in my pocket here." tapping his breast which Col. Franklin would like to have. He don't know I've got it

Irving's curiosity was now aroused and he made up his mind to find out what it was that Hillsman had. His thoughts wavered between the Wright case and the mysterious Merdensely intoxicated, and Warde con- give him any satisfaction." cluded that he would cline to him and wrest the secret from him if it took another round, and they are and

talked and drank so freely that Warde himself gave every evidence of being intoxicated. It was two o'clock when they arose from the table and settled their score. Then Irving, rather uncertainly, but with commendable firmness, assisted his more unbalanced companion out, and they locked arms with the intention of going to Hillsman's room. On the way they became very affectionate and confidential, and Warde in broken accents, swore that Franklin had treated Hillsman like a brute.

"Thish paper 'll fix him," said Hills-'What paper?" said Irving, no less

"Thish paper in my pocket. he'll give me \$5,000 for it." "Hope you'll make him pay every

cent of it? "See here, Irv, you're my fren,' ain't you? Well, now, I want you to look over this paper, and tell me how much to ask for it. Look at it when you'sh shober."

He handed the coveted paper over to Warde, who placed it with drunken deliberation in his inside pocket and then buttoned up his coat. They pursued their zigzag way up

the street until they were suddenly heavy cloak. It was Col. Franklin. "You're the very man I want to see," said Franklin roughly.

"Hello, Colonel, how are you?" said Frank, gayly. "Colonel who?" said Irving, "Oh, vesh; it's Col. Frank Benjamin, Lesh

all go and take a drink." "You're both drunk enough, now." said the colonel sharply, "and I refuse to participate in your beastly revels. But I want to see this drunkard here," indicating Frank, "if you can

spare bim." "All right." And Irving leaned heavily, but gratefully, against the door of a store, while Franklin rather

loudly demanded of Hillsman: "What have you done with the pa per Morris gave you for me?" "What paper, colonel?" said Frank, sobered and frightened at the sudden-

ness of the question. "You know what paper I mean. I have heard from him to-day by letter of interest in my affairs?" from China, and he writes me that he gave the paper to you, and I propose

Irving broke in here: "Come, gentlemen, don't quarrel here. Lesh all have a friendly drink."

"Oh, go to grass!" said the colonel "Colonel, I won't do it," said Irving

home. You've got a big enough job

to take yourself home." "All right, Colonel. I'll hold you personally responsible when you soper up. Goodby. I'll see you later." soon as he reached a cross street he turned into it, straightened himself | case, up, and walked briskly to a hotel;

had obtained from Frank Hillsman. Warde's intoxication that night was of course all a trick. Though he had of whisky, he had as a matter of fact simply ejected the liquor into the late." glass of water which accompanies each drink. So when he reached his room at the hotel he was as sober as he had been when he met Hillsman.

informed him that Franklin and a patience was largely assumed for the companion had been there at three o'clock in the morning seeking him. He quieted her evident fears for his

Now he began to find the possession of that paper a nightmare. He knew that tremendous pressure and resources, which he could not anticipate, would be brought to bear to wrest it from him, and thus prevent its being used to save the Wright estate; for the perusal of the paper ned him that he held a safeguard against the plot that had been laid to steal a fortune. He began to have an inkling of the nature of the combination which had been formed, and he was much concerned lest the paper which was worth so much to the Wrights should be in some way filehed doubly concerned over the result. He knew that the paper meant home and fortune to her; it meant also perhaps the happiness that had been so long denied her; and it would secure the triumph of justice over deliberate

Of course plans would be at once laid to recover the paper, and Irving divined the necessity of putting it im-

It was eight o'clock, and Mr. Everett was just sitting down to his

There was one person in the city do the entire drinking for the office." this time, and when he was anno meed

the lawyer finished his meal in a hur ry and at once led the way to the library. Here the story was soon told and the paper handed over to the lawyer, who locked it up in his safe.

"Now," said he, "I must leave for the courthouse, as I have a case at nine o'clock. Can you come here to-

"Well, come about eight o'clock And during the day avoid Hillsman if you can, and if you run across Franklin bluff him out. I don't want to see you about my office, either." "Suppose they should ask me for

that paper?" "Why, remember that you were on | them. a spree last night, and your recollecivale, and he felt intuitively that the tion of anything that happened is paper to which Hillsman referred had very indistinct. You will not be much some connection with the matter in annoyed by Hillsman to-day, for it which he was deeply interested. It will take him some time to sleep of was easy to see that the clerk would last night's experience. Be on your in the course of an hour or two he guard against Franklin, and do not

As a matter of precaution, the two men separated at the gate to prevent all night. He accordingly called for if possible anyone from knowing that they had met. Irving took a roundabout way, and as he passed a corner not far from Mr. Everett's residence he observed a man leaning idly against a lamp post. The man's appearance was strongely familiar, even though he wore a patch over his eye. Irving could not stop to dissect his make-up, and it was not until he had got three or four blocks away that his memory responded, bringing back that dreadful experience on the river and he recalled the powerful physique and cat-like tread of Old Tom. As soon as he made that discovery he retraced his steps, but his antagonist

> At the office he found a note from Franklin requesting him to call upon him as soon as he received it. this Irving at first concluded that he pay no attention, but he would thought better of it and went directly to Franklin. He found that gentleman engaged with Merivale at the time, but he was cordially invited in.

"What I wanted to see you about," said Franklin, "was a paper which that fool Hillsman stole from this office. Last night when I met you-"Met me?" said Irving, in blank

"Well, perhaps you don't remember ' said the colonel, smiling, "for I must confess you were very happy last night when I saw you. But, a any rate, I demanded the paper of Hillsman. He denied having it at first but I think I seared him pretty badly and after you had gone he said he had given it to you. Have you got the paper?" "I have not. What was the nature

"It is of no importance, the nature of it. You have not seen the paper? "Possibly I have seen it, but as you

have not told me what it is-"I thought at the time that fellow was lying, and that he thought of you

as a shield for himself." "Is this all you wanted to see me about?" said Irving, with apparent

disappointment. "Oh, by the way, you did not spend the night at your rooms?"

"No," said Irving, indifferently. "How was that? "See here, colonel, doesn't it occur to you that you are taking a vast deal

"Well, you see, I like you, Warde." Thanks. "And you might find it to your in

"It is valuable, then?"

"Are you sure you don't know anything about the paper?" "Bother the paper! Why, if I had with dignity. "I've got to take Frank it in my pocket now, do you suppose

that I would give it to you without having a description of it?" "I'm sorry that you can't help m to some friends of mine."

"By the way," said Irving, "is there any news in the Wright case?"

"I thought you took a deep interest for he did not care to be found in in it on account of the family.

"I think I ought to ask you the news about it." "It's a triffe state, now, but I supthe trial begins. Have you any idea what the line of defense will be?"

ter has occupied all my attention of

During this conversation Merivale yawned repeatedly and looked immensely bored, as if he wished Warde, would go and give him an opportunity to resume business with Franklin. He toyed with a newspaper for a while Early the next morning when impatiently, and somehow Irving re-Warde went to his room the landlady ceived the impression that this im-

At last Warde left the two men alone. They looked at each other in safety and then admired his sagacity | silence. Then Merivale spake with a sneering laugh: "That young man has outwitted you completely, Franklin. He has your paper put away safe; probably it is in Everett's possession. And there is another thing that is perfectly apparent that young fellow was as soher last night as you are this minute. It is now ten o'clock. We know that he was in his room at eight, and at Everett's shortly after, and there is not the faintest sign of dissipation about him. I'm surprised that you have allowed yourself to be so easily deceived. Well, I have advanced considerable money to you to earry out this enterprise, and have asked no questions regarding the way it was expended; but I tell you now I must have some

"But we are on the very brink of success, and if you throw it up now you will lose everything. Nothing ments of our designs. If you deserme now I am simply ruined."

"Well, I'll stick to you a few months longer, not because I care anything about you. I have no time for sym pathy with individuals; besides it isn't business. I only care for the success of movements. If your scheme could be carried through it would save me several millions; that would be a clear pick-up. If you Irving reached the house just at fall I shall try a scheme of my own. One thing is sure: Warde must be

got away from here. I'll try and get him an opening in New York.

Late that afternoon Warde ran across Hillsman, who had just got up. The debauch of the night before had told plainly upon him, his flushed face and bloodshot eyes bearing conclusive evidence against him. He did not allude at all to the meeting of the previous evening, and it was evident that dissipation had drawn a veil over all that had happened and left in his mind merciy a blank. Warde was considerably relieved on this score, for at present he did not care to complicate matters by having to consider Frank as an element in

At eight o'clock Warde and Mr. Ex rett were again closeted together. and the paper that had caused such a from the safe and carefully read. It of this story. The handwriting was bold and plain. The following were the contents in full:

AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN T WRIGHT AND JAMES FRANKLIN John T. Wright has this day made the street, near the Bayou, 10i by 200 feet. A lot on Front row, near Madleon, 40 by 150 feet, with Improvements. All to the Shelby Real Estate and Investment com-A tract of land in county, Colorado,

These transfers are made to protect the said John T. Wright from sundry suits at law which threaten to grow out of the difficulty that terminated in the death of Jeremiah Baxter at the hands of the said Wright. Regrecting as be does the necessity of taking human life, the said Wright is not willing that ils estate shall be sacrificed and the welfare of his family jeoparded; and hese transfers are made with the disthat understanding that whenever the said Wright desires to revest these vari-ous properties in his own name the said James Franklin will take steps to al JAMES FRANKLIN.

"That is certainly one of the mosremarkable documents that it has ever been my fortune to consider. said the lawyer, his keen eyes snap ping with relish for a novelty in le gal literature. "Have you any idea what the paper is worth?"

"I should say two or three hundred thousand dollars," said Irving. "It is nearer ten or twelve mil-

ions," declared the lawver, Irving's eyes betrayed a dazed sur orise as he gaspingly repeated the words after Mr. Everett. The latter united and said: "I haven't the slightest doubt that Frederick Meritate by this paper."

vale would give at least \$1,000,000 for the rights secured in the Wright es-"Hut-how can it he?" asked Irving in a whisper. Real Estate & Investment company Colorado are virtually and practically suggestion has examined the records a thorough investigation, and with this end in view Fenton went to Colorado and there he soon learned that And he recled away, leaving Frank The colonel looked at him penetrational Mining company were dum-and the colonel to fight it out. As ingly for a moment and then replied: Ties, and that James Franklin owned "Why do you ask? I am out of the a large proportion of the stock, ness These two companies were evidently created by Wright and Franklin for the purpose of more thoroughly confers made. Fenton paid a visit to the Colorado tract of land, and it pose the people will wake up when proved to be in the heart of a rich mining section. Originally Wright had bought it for a song and had "None whatever. In fact other looked upon it as a very indifferent ostensibly disposed of several drinks | business of a very important charac- speculation; but in 20 years great changes have been wrought, mines of vast richness have been worked, and now it turns out that the eyes of all the gold diggers in Colorade are turned greedily toward this tract of land situated among the hills. To was a cold defiance in his blue eye successful mine has been conducted as he replied: "Col. Franklin, you vein of ore became richer and richer if you wish to transact any business until finally it ran dead against a tre- with me. I have never allowed any which some upheaval of nature had I shall make no exception in your days and days the miners sought to discover the broken thread, but in vain, until an old fellow who owned n "dog" came along. The "dog" is some kind of mystic apparatus which will indicate the whereabouts of gold, just as the witch-hazel is said to point out a subterranean stream of water. Well, this old fellow climbed over the great wall of sandstone into a rocky reach of land; and as he was going

about with his "dog" he soon discovered violent symptoms, as it were, of gold. The vein was continued with apparently double richness on the other side of the intervening sandstone. Fenton was fortunate enough to meet an old fellow out there who had gone west from this section of the country and who had bought that tract of land for Wright; and as soon as he learned of its possibilities be wrote to Wright telling him that he per was brought to me this morning, probably had a large fortune in it, if wrote back that the land was still his, and that the taxes had been paid upon it regularly. This letter has been secured. Of course the news of the discovery of this valuable vein on Wright's land created intense excitement, and Frederick Merivale, the largest stockholder in the adjacent mine, at once placed himself in cor-

Merivale's visit to Nilus."

respondence with James Franklin.

them is merely a matter of surmise,

but this is doubtless the cause of

all sorts of means to thwart the investigation of the truth. It is now only too plain that the murder of a great conspiracy to get possession of the mines."

"Not a doubt of it: and there is no reason to suppose that the conspirators will quietly allow this paper to remain out of their possession. They will do some dark scheming to get hold of it. I think, therefore, that we had better take a copy of it."

The lawyer got from his desk a piece of paper, old and somewhat and his coolness under the circumsoiled, which could very easily be stances was admirable, taken for the paper on which the "I am a lawyer, Col. original agreement had been written, and then he instructed Warde to into the fire unconcernedly, "and am make a copy just as much like it as accustomed to giving advice. Let me vast amount of trouble was taken deft penmanship could contrive. Irving was expert enough to make one was dated 20 years before the time that could hardly have been told from its prototype. This was held before the fire so as to dry the ink and draw out its blackness. It was then folded and backed with the words, "John T. Wright's Copy of the Agreement," just as the original had been.

Hardly had this task been accomplished when the door bell rang and soon afterward the servant nounced that Col. Franklin desired an audience with Mr. Everett. The lawyer saw that it would arouse Franklin's suspicions if he declined an interview, and he was not averse to a contest of wits with that astute individual. At first he was puzzled to know what to do with Irving. It would not do for him to go out in the hall and risk being seen by the

The left side of Mr. Everett's Hbrary was covered with book shelves. but one of the cases was a revolving door and bookease combined. A slight push turned it sideways and permitted entrance to the next apart- receipt." ment, which was a sort of lounging room for the lawyer. There were a great many easy chairs therein, a it on the table, "Count it." lounge, and all the facilities for the dreamy recreation of reading. When the lawver wanted to work he occupied the library; when he wanted to read he sought the luxurious chair in the lounging room.

It was the work of a moment to what he wanted, throw back this door, which had been and not for the purposes of world romance, and thrust Irving into the next room.

A morent afterward Col. Franklin and Mr. Everett confronted each other like two intellectual gladiators in the library. The latter was cool, keen and collected. He had his wits well in hand and his emotions firmly

There was a glitter in Franklin's dark eyes, and a suppressed excitement in his manner which placed him at a disadvantage, though he was not

Franklin had an intense personal-He was full of the magnetism that repels. Even men of the steadiest nerves and most phlegmatic tem perament were surprised to find themselves trembling in his presence, not from fear, but simply from the disturbing atmosphere that seemed to surround the man. The personality of some men is pacifying and his quality in his antagonist and he James Franklin. These facts were at once forced himself to become fadiscovered by Fenton, who at my miliar with it, in much the same way that the bather inures himself to the in the register's office, and learned gold water by placing first an arm. the exact state of the case. It was then a leg and gradually the whole company, but the facts concerning customed to, is virtually worn off. the mining company were harder to in a few minutes Everett had thorget at. It became necessary to have oughly neutralized the mesmeric quality radiating from Franklin, and But Everett was hardly prepared for I e local incorporators in the Dia- the reckless andacity of the man, who, without any concealment, went straight to the object of his busi-

most overawing manner, "that you

thrown off his guard, but he recovered in a second and replied indifferently: "Not being a mind reader, colonel, I should not undertake to say what the object of your visit was. Be kind enough to explain your-

"I came after that paper Mr. Everett did not display the barrassment or indignation, but there man to take that tone with me and

Franklin laughed a nervous, dis agreeable laugh and then said: meant no offense, sir, and you should have taken none. But it is perfectly apparent to me that you have a paper which belongs to me,

"As you please. If I am informed correctly, a paper which was taken from my possession was this morn ing brought to this house and turned over to you, or least inspected by

Franklin learn all this?" "From trustworthy sources, de pend upon it."

your surmising such a state of facts Suppose we assume that such a pa and I should insist on Col. Franklin's te had continued to hold it. Wright proving his ownership of the paper?" "I could tell at once, by an examination, whether it was mine or not."

> "But I couldn't." "Well, I would be willing to pay very handsomely for the restoration of the document."

"There is one very easy way to ge this paper, if you are satisfied that it is in my possession, and that is to institute proceedings against me in the Just what has taken place between courts and thus recover it."

"There is a better way than that, and a quicker one," said Franklin, the wealthiest men in the state." coolly, taking from his pocket a re-"No wonder they were willing and volver and covering Mr. Excrett's also. He knew that Mrs. Wright was

ready to spend money, and to employ heart. "I made up my mind when I came here that I would have that paper, and I propose to get it. I am a desperate man. I have staked a John T. Wright was simply a part of great deal on this little document. and I can make a fortune out of it. Nothing shall defeat me, you understand, nothing. This little revolver can outwit your clever brains every time. Now you will be kind enough, Mr. Everett, to hand me that agreement between Wright and myself."

Lawver Everett was naturally a man of nerve, but he realized that it was useless to argue against death;

"I am a lawyer, Col. Franklin," he said in an abstracted way, looking give you some. I have no desire to that this property lad been deeded take any unfair advantage of you, to a real estate company, and that I propose to fill all my legal engage. as a representative of the company ments, and in such as conflict with your interests I expect to give you warn you that you are making a great mistake in trying to obtain this paper in this manner.'

story you please about it. I will denounce it as a myth. You have no witnesses, and besides I think it's just as well that you should sell this frying; "he will never got horses on paper to me and give me a receipt."

"Not at all. You may tell any

You have guarded yourself admirably," said Mr. Everett, smiling, 'Allow me to compliment your dexterity and the thoroughness of your plans, but all the same I shall defeat you atterly. You will find that this paper contains more danger to you than you ever dreamed of. But how much do you propose to pay for it?"

"Ten thousand dollars." "Very well," said Mr. Everett witting down to his writing desk in a business-like manner; "there's your

"Here's your money," said Frank lin, taking out a roll and throwing "It's all right. Ten \$1,000 notes."

Now the paper, please." The lawyer went to his safe, took from the top of a bundle in one of the pigeon-holes a paper and, handng it to Franklin, asked it trat was

Franklin looked at it resnally, was contrived purely as a convenience, satisfied with the inspection, thrust It into his pocket and prepared to take bis departure.

erett, politely, "that I warned you confined to us four" egainst all this." Franklin stood reflectively for a

noment. Everett's manner was un- done?" intelligible to him. Then an idea occurred to him. Perhaps you made a copy of this."

Everett made a slight movement of self-dissatisfaction as he said: "If I had only thought of that."

"I think I will look at the papers in your safe.' "Well, if you paist, but I give you

possession."

But he took out a hage bundle of papers and rapidly went through she would be able to spend the retion. The drawers in the safe were dependent. And now I feel that taken out and their contents exam- through you this hope will be realhed. At last Franklin was satisfied, ized "Refore I explain this part, let me soothing, while that of others is irri- Mr. Everett courteously escorted him "If I have done anothing to bring tell you this; that the Shelby County string and discordant. Franklin's to the front door and wished him about the object of your desire, I am good night. Then he west back to perfectly satisfied"

after, and he was surprised to find

and me for \$10,000 " "What do you mean?"

"I have disposed of the copy of the agreement which you made to-night." "How did you do it?" "Col. Franklin insisted on it at the

point of his pistol."

"Why didn't you call me" "I didn't want you. One of us dare aspire to the love of a woman would have been hurt, and besides, like Miriam. Her gold would be the was glad to get rid of the copy. Franklin is now satisfied that there is no accusing paper out against him. and the original, which I tossed behind the books in the case yonder, to her wealth affect her? Now she from thieveries and assaults, and all sorts of diabolical schemes. I feel immensely relieved. Besides, here is

"You can use some of that in conducting the cases you now have on hand. I like the idea of fighting these people with their own money "Now, Irving, I am ready to try

Herbert Wright's case." The next day the original agreement was deposited in a scaled envelope in the vault of the bank where Mr. Everett kept his account.

CHAPTER XIII.

Now ensued a few days of relief and serenity for Irving Warde. His footsteps were no longer dogged by reckless ruffians. Old Tom and his companion, as well as the man in the red flannel shirt, had disappeared, and his dreams were not disturbed by visions of deeply dyed villains and resurrected pirates of the Spanish Main. Fenton had been industriousbut quietly, at work, and his reports had been of a highly satisfactory description.

Irving had not forgotten Herbert Wright's wife and her destitute condition. He and Miriam had visited her together, and a part of the money obtained from Franklin had been placed in bank to her credit For the first time during the year everything had been comfortable in her home; and it was wonderful to see how pretty she became under the brighter skies that spanned ber life; for Irving had assured her positively that her husband would be acquitted; and Herbert had been very cheerful about it, too.

"But how do you know he will be acquitted?" persisted the liftle wo-

"That I cannot tell you now," said band had no more to do with the killing of Mr. Wright than I did. and the jury will so declare. And I have more good news for you. Your days of trouble are over. In a year from now your husband will be one of

So Warde felt relieved on this score

amply provided for and contented. and he devoted himself with a free conscience to Miriam, who every day became dearer to him. They were together a great deal, for love had kindled his spirit flame in trying's heart, and to make Miriam happy become the guiding motors of his

A week after the events narrated in the preceding chapter Irving weat out to the Wright homestead and found Miriam in tears "What is the matter?" he asked

as he gently took her hand "We must give up this place, and not been bappy here, but we were

attached to the place, for it was not to blame." "How has this come about " "Col. Franklin has just notified us.

he desires possession on the February." "So Col. Franklin imagines that he

is still alive, does he? Well, he can go and hang himself ? Yes, he could, but he will And that would not help as any "Miss Miriam, don't your menty

of this place, I promise you alma "It is very kind of you to try to console us, but I am afraid there can

about the colonel's notification.

"But there is help for it I did not expect to tell you this yet, and conmust promise to let no one know a it but your mother, and was much pledge her also to seen

"Well, then, we both sweet." Miriam. "It is a bit of remance in it illustrating, however, the trimming the good and the just over the said

and the uniust." "Please do go on with your en My appetite is sufficiently, whether Then Warde told her about the old agreement and its recovery. He garher the entire story, including Mr Everett's adventure with Frankli

terrupted trying. For the present we have quieted him by forring him ways pose that he has us cornered possession of the agreement is known to you, Mr. Everett and make f. And "itememier, Colone," said ifr. Eve when your mather is take it will be

"How can we over show Itude to you for what you have

"It was a niere accident that helped

me to get that agreement, so year must thank fate this time "But you have been devoted to our interests all the time. You have never let an opportunity slip to dea favor for some member of our fam-Hy, and you have worked as industriously for us as some mon work my word of honor the no copy has for themselves. I do not care to be been made of the pier now in your | wealthy, but my mother has had a them under Franklin's close inspec- mainder of her life here entirely in

"I think that you must be the good angel of the family

Then she flew away to tell her mother the news that Warde had brought, leaving him in a trance haif way between doubt and happiness. a piece of property belonging to you | Irving was not a worshipper of mammon, and he did not propose to allow the substantial deity to come between him and the desire of his heart, which was to win the love of Miriam Wright; he was not a fortune

hunter, and he saw to reason why

he should stand aghast before a pile

of gold if in other ways he com sweet timidity about her, a half-startled air, a frankness without artifice and a sentient beauty that rendered

any description of her coloriess. In-

spoiled by contact with a money get-

ting, place-hunting society. Miriam

was the lovely token of something which Warde only dreamed. But the test? How would she come out of the furnace fed by the associated passions of humanity? Would she remain stendfast to heiself, or would she after with alteration? There would be uncouth lips to tell her that she was beautiful. diance that wealth can scatter round about one would cling to her. The sensuous arts would environ her and assail the simplicity which was now her charm. Fashion would spread for her its subtlest wiles, and mammon would write sonners to her deep gray

These thoughts flew through his mind while Miriam was gone, but when she returned she almost tempted him to lay aside his juigment with his doubts, she was so frankly happy in his presence. It cost him a great exertion of will not to put his fortune to the test then and there, but he conquered the inclination and went away with his secret unspoken.

CEO BE CONTINUED.

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